



### MARCH 2010-- WYTHE NEWS: PASTOR'S LETTER



Pastor Dave Van Dyke and his Jane.

This is day #23 since I began as your new interim pastor. My books, files and miscellaneous ministry resources (including the indispensable guitar and orange crocs) are unpacked. My computer is up and running. I've got a couple sermons, a Session meeting, three preschool chapels, and a bunch of lunches, home and hospital visits under my belt. All to say that I'm starting to feel settled in—and a huge thank-you for making me feel so welcomed and loved—I think we're in for a wonderful chapter of ministry together!

Beginning a new ministry is always an adjustment for us pastors. And probably even MORE so for all you church members as you try to figure out who this new character is who presumes to take on the momentous task of leading a church. And just in case you haven't figured it out yet: I'm an ordinary guy, with all kinds of strengths and weaknesses, abilities and quirks, lots of questions and a few answers-- who is staking his life on following an extraordinary God. One of my constant prayers this past stretch is for God to allow me to invest my final decade as a "paid pastor" in congregations committed to making a difference for the Kingdom of God. So I have high hopes and dreams for you all!

A few "house-keeping" matters as we begin our ministry together: the covenant contract I signed with your Session is for a part-time, 35 hr./wk. intentional interim pastor position. I'm loving the opportunity to commute from our home-base in Williamsburg and hope that many of you will experience our Van Dyke hospitality as soon as we have our kitchen installed. I'll generally stick to this weekly schedule: commute to Hampton on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays—mornings at the church, afternoons out calling, evenings for meetings... Wednesdays I'll hole up at my Williamsburg home office to write my sermon... that leaves Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays as days off (gardening, cooking, goofing off and tending my chickens, bees and family). I'm available ANY time for pastoral emergencies—my home office phone is 757-345-2387 and my cell phone is 434-851-6334. But please save church business for Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays—I'll stick around in Hampton as late as needed. And one of the best ways to reach me is through my new church email address: [pastor@wythepc.org](mailto:pastor@wythepc.org)

I'm thrilled that God has called me to serve as your new interim pastor. My creative juices are flowing wildly. I'll soon be setting up meals with groups of members to talk together about Wythe's past, present and future. But if you'd like some one-on-one time, I'm always up for a coffee or meal invite. And I'm hoping for a couple folks willing to teach me how to fish the Chesapeake way—my expertise has been limited to freshwater bass so far. I'm sure this must be important—after all, there are lots of fish stories in the Bible. I'm just afraid I might look out some Sunday and see a bunch of folks in the pews holding up a fresh croaker or bluefish (some of you know exactly what I'm talking about! :-)

For the Kingdom,

*Dave Van Dyke*



Children's Choir Performing

## Worship Committee

### Bells

In January a new Bell Choir was formed. We have 7 members and could use some more! Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. and you don't have to read music to play! That's the joy of playing the bells! Wythe is blessed with two sets of Bells, so there are plenty to go around. The first time the Bells will be playing in worship will be February 7th followed by the Maundy Thursday Service on April 1.



### Praise Team

You've probably noticed the drum set in the sanctuary! And that Pastor Dave plays the guitar. If you'd like to be a part of the Praise Team please join us on Thursday evenings between 6:45 and 7:30 p.m. Instruments and vocalists are welcome to be a part of this growing and evolving team.

### Communion

If you are a member of the congregation who would like to assist in the preparation of the sacraments, please let Barbara McGeorge know. Communion will be every 2nd Sunday this year, so if there is a particular Sunday that works for you, let Barbara McGeorge know. If you are an Elder who is no longer on the Session and would like to assist in serving communion, please let Barbara McGeorge know. There is no list at Wythe that tells me all the ordained Elders and so she might not know that you are one!

### Adult Choir

Have you noticed the Adult Choir is growing! How exciting! But we could still use you. Just show up any Thursday night at 7:30 p.m. and we'll fit you for a robe and hand you a notebook. If you are afraid you "don't read music," don't be. We have section leaders for each section who will lead you to success as you sing God's Praise!



### Sound System

Butch Allen has agreed to help the Worship Committee with updating the sound system. If you have a desire to help with this that would be great! Or, if you would like to do the sound on Sunday mornings - that also would be awesome. That job consists of:



- Turning on the sound system
- Making sure there is a fresh cassette to record the service in the recording system
- Sound check of the microphones
- Sitting in service and making sure everyone can hear.

It's not time consuming, but so necessary for everyone to hear the service.

A final note: Our new Pastor and the Worship Committee will be working on the flow and design of the service itself. Please give us feedback - this will be an iterative process and nothing is set in stone until it serves the worship needs of our congregation.

Barbara McGeorge

## Witness and Mission

Thanks to everyone who made a Nights Welcome for us so successful. There were thirty-six people who helped that night with preparing and serving food, cleaning up, etc., or who prepared food before the event. Special thanks go to Charity Houghton, Marg Jensen, and Ruth Sanders for shopping for food and supplies. Everyone who participated that night began working upon arrival and continuing all that was necessary until the task was completed. Those who prepared and served breakfast as well as those who spent the night are greatly appreciated.

BJ's and Food Lion on Kecoughtan Road are due and extra special thanks for making a donation for our use. Please tell them how you appreciated their donation the next time you visit their store.

It is great to be a part of a church family that is so willing to help others! Thanks again for your support to the ministries of Witness and Mission!

### Presbyterian Women's Circle



The Presbyterian Women's Circle has been busy collecting items to provide birthday gift bags for the children in H.E.L.P.'s homeless shelter.

It is hard to imagine how difficult and frightening it must be to lose the security of your home or apartment and become dependent on others, many times strangers, to provide the very basic needs of day to day living. Remembering the importance of birthday celebrations and family traditions when we were young, the ladies decided to do something that we hope will add a little joy, sunshine, and love to the lives of the children suffering displacement in our community.

We collected cake mixes, icing, candles, paper plates, cups and napkins, birthday favors such as balloons, hats and horns, books, little presents, and bubble blowers to create the makings for a happy birthday celebration, and put them in bright festive bags for three birthday boys and three birthday girls!

### Intentional Interim Pastor Search Committee

Interim Search Committee Success! The Intentional Interim Pastor Search Committee, consisting of Elders Steve McGeorge, Bill Still, and Shirley Davis, after much prayerful work, and many interviews, recommended to Session selection of Rev. David Van Dyke, as our Intentional Interim Pastor. We truly believe Rev. Dave was led to us by the Spirit, and he is the right man, with the right training and experience to lead us forward in our transition and eventual effort to call a new installed pastor. I want to personally thank Bill and Shirley for all their efforts. To all the members of Wythe Presbyterian Church another great thanks for greeting Rev. Dave with love, joy, and open arms. The Lord has great things in store for us! Steve McGeorge



### Stained Glass Classes

Stained glass classes taught by Jo Sinclair every Monday from 7 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. We will be building a window to place in the fellowship hall to honor the children. Classes run through the spring or until the window is completed and hung. If you are interested in joining this project call Jo Sinclair at 618-4306 to sign up. She will then give you a list of needed tools and supplies. If Mondays are not a good day for everyone, a different day may be voted on. There is no charge for the class, but you must remain in the class until the window is completed! Looking forward to seeing several of you on Monday's at 7:00 p.m. in the church fellowship hall!  
Jo Sinclair



### Happenings in March:



#### P.W. Circle

March 2 at 12:30 p.m.

At the Devonshire  
2220 Executive Drive

Bring finger food for lunch  
Study Lesson six with Francis Wolf



#### *The Crabs Chapter*

#### March Luncheon

March 4 at 11:30 a.m.

At Grey Goose

Be at the Church at  
10:25 a.m. for a ride



#### Men's Prayer Breakfast

March 13 at 8:00 a.m.

Bayside Presbyterian, VA Beach

#### Lunch Bunch

March 25, 11:30 a.m.

Anna's in Hampton on Big Bethel  
If you need a ride, please contact Jo  
Sinclair or Bill Still

#### Girl Scouts

Troop 1327 Junior and Cadette  
Girl Scouts grades 4-8. Leader  
Lisa Thatcher home: 726-2110.

Monday meetings at Wythe Pres  
Fellowship Hall 6:30-7:30pm on  
the following Mondays- March 15,  
April 12, April 26, May 10, May  
24.

#### Cub Scouts

We had a great Pinewood Derby at  
Armstrong—all the boys did a  
great job making their cars! All the  
scouts are working hard on their  
electives and badge requirements!  
The Bears have been learning  
about electricity and bike maintenance and a future trip to the BMX  
track is planned. Remember that  
you can stop by Armstrong or the  
church every Thursday to find a  
meeting and get more information!



## HELEN G. MUIR CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

"Love is the rule in our school!"

The school year is flying by so quickly! Soon it will be spring with a promise of warmer days and hopefully, sunny skies! Our annual Scholastic Book Fair begins on March 29 and will continue to April 2. You can visit the book fair with your child any morning before 9:00AM or afternoon after 3:00PM in the church fellowship hall. There will be many great books to choose from!

Enrollment for the 2010/2011 school year has begun. If you have not registered your child yet, please consider doing so soon. Many spaces have already been filled! We would love to have your child join us for another year of exciting learning!

Happy spring!

Norma Topping  
Director

March 14	Daylight Savings time begins. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour!
March 18 staff	VAECE conference in Richmond. Center closed for to attend.
March 29 - Apr 2	Scholastic Book Fair

### TERRIFIC TWOS

The school year is half over and the 2's are learning more everyday. Our class would like to send a big "Thank you" to all the parents who participated in making our Valentine's Day party so much fun. The children really enjoyed getting valentines from their friends. This month we learned about eating healthy foods and those nasty plaque monsters.

March will bring us good luck and a lot of green. Green will be the color of the month and our shape will be a diamond. Please continue to work with your child at home on their colors, shapes and counting to ten!

Mrs. Chandra Washington-Palmer  
Mrs. Ruth Glass



### FANTASTIC FOURS

In February, the children had a wonderful time making heart crafts, heart bags for Valentine's Day and cards for their parents. We have finished our unit on "Healthy Me" and are taking a walk down "Discovery Street" where the children will be talking about and learning about their neighborhoods.

Our letters this month were M, N, O, & P. We have been talking about the Olympics also. Al has taught us about our feelings and that it's ok to have more than one feeling at a time. He has also taught us the importance of using power words such as excuse me, please and thank you when we are playing with our friends.

Mrs. Nicole Kelly  
Mrs. Kimberly Allen

M N O P

## THRILLING THREES

We will say goodbye to winter this month and give a warm welcome to spring. The world inside and outside our classroom will go from winter white to spring green.

February was our celebration of hearts, and not just valentine hearts, but hearts inside our bodies. We read a book called Jamie's Heart. Jamie taught us that the key to a healthy heart includes lots of exercise, a good night's sleep, a diet full of fresh fruits and vegetables, and last but not most important: NO SMOKING. Smoking makes our hearts sick. A healthy heart beats 90 times a minute. It is a pump that keeps the blood flowing through your body. Your heart is a muscle, that's why it needs exercise just like the other muscles in your body. Make a fist; your heart is about the size of your fist.

February was also dental health month. Ask your child about our egg in a cup of cola experiment; the egg being our teeth. What happened to that egg? What happened to the egg that sat in water? How did we clean the "cola" egg? Besides brushing, what else do we do to keep our teeth healthy? How many "baby or milk" teeth do we have? You see, the 3 year old class does more than play. There is also a lot of learning going on!

What will march blow in? Spring of course; kites, lions, lambs, and lots of green. Shamrocks, leprechauns and rainbows with pots of gold at the end of them. Put an O in front of and name....You're suddenly Irish!

Mrs. Michele O'Aravich  
Mrs. Gail O'Carnes



## MAGNIFICENT FOUR'S

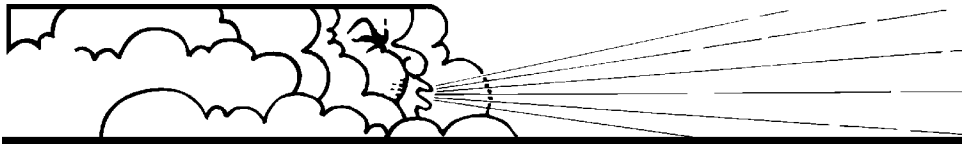
This month has been a very busy month for the magnificent fours. We have been busy learning our letter sounds and how to write them. This month we learned the letters W, V, and O. Our class even pretended that we were mad scientists and made a baking soda volcano for the letter V.

Our class completed our unit on "Healthy Me" and started our Discovery street unit with Tabby Tiger. Both units include helpers in our neighborhood. We learned about doctors and veterinarians. They both check their patients with stethoscopes, which we pretended to do, and take care of all their needs. Our class also learned how to care for their teeth for Dental Health Month.

In Al's Pals, Al has continued to teach us about our feelings including angry, scared, and disappointed. One day we did an activity where the children painted while listening to different types of music. We talked about how the music made us feel as we painted. We also talked about kind words and how Al loves hearing them.

Our Valentine's Day party was a blast. The students really enjoyed handing out their valentines and receiving them in return. Thank you to all of our parents who made all this possible.

Mrs. Sarah Ramos



# MARCH 2010




# **JOYS AND CONCERNS**

## **OUR PRAYER LIST**

### **MARCH**

**Members: Lee Kenley; Bernice and Fred Matthews** and their family; Tucker Carwile—surgery complications; Wayne Tugwell—health problems.

**Friends and Family: Mary Ann Meyer (daughter of Charlotte Mierchuk);** Shirley Southern's sister's cancer has returned; Bill Brown—Cancer (McGeorges' friend); Myrna Bickhart—Extended illness (wife of PEVA Stated Clerk, Don Bickhart); Amaya Sims (7-year-old)—a return of brain cancer; Mike Canty (friend of Art Thatcher with Leukemia); Nicholas Ferris—A tumor has grown outside of the 8 year old's brain stem. Joe Braig, Jeanne Peters' next door neighbor.



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Would you like to help out with the Newsletter? Questions or comments? If so please call the Church Office (245-3593) or you may send us an email at: [wythepres@wythepresbyterian.com](mailto:wythepres@wythepresbyterian.com) for more information! Thank you so much!

#### **Homebound Members**

Harry Becker  
Becky Carwile  
**Dede King**  
Johnny Carwile

#### **Health Concerns**

Fred & **Bernice Matthews**; Bernice is at Coliseum Park following a stroke.



#### **Members in Senior Living**

##### *The Chesapeake*

- Violet McCreery
- Ann Sterrett

##### *Coliseum Park Nursing Home*

- Ada Mae Plott
- ##### *The Devonshire*
- Audrey Crum\*
  - Kathryn Rowe
  - Eunice Smith
  - Frank King

##### *James River Convalescent Center*

- Hazel Hedgebeth

##### *Riverside Convalescent Center*

- Catherine Dunbar

##### *Dominion Village*

##### *Poquoson*

- Betty Peterson

Keep our  
Military Members  
in Prayer!



#### **Military**

- Christopher Topping (Hampton)
- Pat DeWitt (Florida)
- Bryce James\* (Oklahoma)
- Clyde Morrow (Norfolk)
- Galen Negaard\* (Afghanistan)
- Jason Stewart (New Jersey)
- Charles King\* (Afghanistan)
- Benjamin King

#### **College Students**

##### **Christopher Newport University**

Michael Baggett  
Anna Feucht  
Dylan Walker

##### **William and Mary**

Jennifer Stolz

##### **Virginia Military Institute**

Stephen Stolz



#### **Needed: babysitters for Wythe**

If you know of anyone responsible, and willing to watch the precious ones of our church please contact Christina Houghton [christinahoughton@cox.net](mailto:christinahoughton@cox.net) or 723-0477. Thanks!



Dear Wythe Presbyterian Congregation,  
The congregation of Community Presbyterian Church, on behalf of the homeless individuals of the City of Hampton, wish to extend our thanks to all the volunteers from your congregation who help to make the Nights Welcome hosted by our church from 30 January to 6 February 2010 a successful program. You contributed in a large part to the feeding of 513 individuals in that one week. Your help was an additional blessing because we hosted these people 24 hours straight from Saturday through Wednesday morning due to the severe snow storm and extreme cold temperatures.

Bless each of your members for their Christian love and caring.

Yours in Christ,

Elder Gerald K. Delles, Mission Committee Chair

Dear Wythe Presbyterian,

The family of Shirley Southern wishes to thank the Church family of Wythe for their support during the sickness and death of Frank Sothern. The prayers, cards and food meant so much, God Bless you all.

Shirley Southern

Dear Wythe Presbyterian,

Thank you for your gift of \$50 in December. The donation was used by the Society of St. Andrew to feed America's hungry by salvaging nutritious produce from fields and packing houses and delivering it to feeding agencies across the country.

Society of St. Andrew

Bold Type = Special Need! To add or delete a name, call the church office at 245-3593.

\* Friend of the Church If you are hospitalized or have an emergency day or night, call Shirley Davis at 838-7435!



Wythe Presbyterian Church (USA)  
"The Little Church with the Big Heart!"

**March 2010**

Worship: 11:00 a.m.  
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.  
151 Robinson Road  
Hampton, VA 23661  
Phone: 757-245-3593  
Fax: 757-245-1606  
wythepres@wythepresbyterian.org  
Website: [www.wythepresbyterian.org](http://www.wythepresbyterian.org)

OUR CHURCH STAFF:

Glenn Winters, Choir &  
Praise Team Director  
Jeanne Peters, Organist  
Christine Maculley, Treasurer  
John Caleb McClure, Admin. Ass't.  
Norma Topping, Director,  
Helen G. Muir Child  
Development Center  
Norris "Mac" McKoy, Custodian

*In case of immediate need call  
Shirley Davis at 838-7435*

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



**Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt is  
Palm Sunday, March 28.**

**Donations of individually wrapped Easter  
Candy needed by March 21.**

**Please give your donations to  
Beverley Peterson-Allen.**